

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00  
FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00  
BIB-01 L-03 /048 W  
-----083997 180940Z /15  
R 180116Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6574

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETEL, FR  
SUBJECT: FCC DISAPPROVAL OF TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLE

REF: PARIS 4902

1. GRENIER (OF PTT - WHO SAID HE IS ALSO FRENCH GOVERNOR ON INTELSAT) MET BRIEFLY WITH EMBASSY TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER FEBRUARY 17 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES. SUBMARINE CABLE QUESTION WAS THE ONLY TOPIC HE WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS, FOR HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE HOW STRONGLY FRANCE AND MOST OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FELT ABOUT FCC ACTION. HE HAD, HOWEVER, JUST RECEIVED

FROM THE QUAI A REPORT OF FRENCH EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT (EB, RUTH PHILLIPS) WHICH HE FOUND ENCOURAGING AND HE HOPED THAT SOME ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY FCC TO REVERSE ITS POSITION.

2. GRENIER EXPLAINED THAT EUROPEANS STRONGLY FAVOR A 50-50 SPLIT BETWEEN CABLES AND SATELLITES ON NORTH ATLANTIC SERVICE AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CABLE SHARE -- WHICH HE SAID WAS CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER THAN  
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THE SATELLITE SHARE BECAUSE OF COMSAT'S PRICING POLICIES -- WAS MAINTAINED. THUS IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE 1980'S THAT A TAT-7 BE APPROVED PROMPTLY AND THAT CONSTRUCTION GET UNDERWAY BY SOME-TIME IN 1979. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY BY AT&T TO GET FCC TO REOPEN THE DOCKET WITH A VIEW TO RECONSIDERATION. FRANCE AND THE OTHER

EUROPEANS SUPPORT THIS AND HOPE THEY WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH FCC, BUT HE IS PESSIMISTIC THAT FCC WILL ENTER INTO ANY NEGOTIATIONS.

HE CONSIDERS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF FCC -- BECAUSE OF ITS STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF COURT CHALLENGES -- TO NEGOTIATE TO BE THE REAL PROBLEM.

3. GRENIER NOTED THAT MOST OF THE 26 EUROPEAN PTT ADMINISTRATIONS HAD MET LATE JANUARY AT PALMA DE MAJORCA TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION AND HAD AGREED TO THE "REVOLUTIONARY" STEP OF ASKING THEIR FONOFFS TO MAKE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO THE USG ON THIS ISSUE. HE UNDERSTANDS THE UK HAS ALREADY DONE SO AND THAT MOST OTHERS WILL DO THE SAME. FINALLY, HE REMINDED US THAT A FEW YEARS AGO A SIMILAR ISSUE (TAT-6) AROSE WITH FCC AND THAT EUROPEANS HAD TO THREATEN SOME ASPECTS OF US MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO GET THEIR VIEWS CONSIDERED, BUT HE HOPED THAT AN APPROACH OF THIS NATURE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY WITH RESPECT TO TAT-7.

4. COMMENT: WE MAY HAVE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE FURTHER WITH GRENIER AND IT MAY ALSO COME UP AT QUAI D'ORSAY. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GUIDANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED REFTEL SHOULD BE SUPPLIED PROMPTLY.  
MYERSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TELEPHONE SYSTEMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Subject:** FCC DISAPPROVAL OF TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLE  
**TAGS:** ETEL, FR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014